



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6703**

January Session, 2005

\* HB06703PD 040105 \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING PLANNING FOR COMMUNITY  
PRESERVATION.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a  
2 Geographic Information Systems Council consisting of the following  
3 members or their designees: (1) The Secretary of the Office of Policy  
4 and Management; (2) the Commissioners of Environmental Protection,  
5 Economic and Community Development, Transportation, Public  
6 Safety and Public Health; (3) the Chief Information Officer of the  
7 Department of Information Technology; (4) one member appointed by  
8 the president pro tempore of the Senate representing a municipality  
9 with a population of more than sixty thousand; (5) one member  
10 appointed by the minority leader of the Senate representing a regional  
11 planning agency; (6) one member appointed by the Governor  
12 representing a municipality with a population of less than sixty  
13 thousand but more than thirty thousand; (7) one member appointed by  
14 the speaker of the House of Representatives representing a  
15 municipality with a population of less than thirty thousand; and (8)  
16 one member appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
17 Representatives who is a user of geographic information systems.  
18 Within available appropriations, the Secretary of the Office of Policy  
19 and Management, or a designee, shall serve as chairperson of the  
20 council and shall administer the affairs of the council. The Governor

21 shall fill any vacancy by appointment for the unexpired portion of the  
22 term vacated. Members shall receive no compensation for their  
23 services on said council, but shall be reimbursed for necessary  
24 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Said council shall  
25 hold one meeting each month and such additional meetings as may be  
26 prescribed by council rules. In addition, special meetings may be called  
27 by the chairperson or by any three members upon delivery of forty-  
28 eight hours written notice to each member.

29 (b) The council, within available appropriations, shall coordinate a  
30 uniform geographic information system capacity for the state and  
31 municipalities which shall include provisions for application, policy  
32 and standards for government information system implementation. In  
33 establishing such capacity, the council shall consult with state agencies,  
34 municipalities and other users of geographic information system  
35 technology.

36 (c) The council shall administer a program of technical assistance to  
37 regional planning agencies and municipalities to develop geographic  
38 information systems.

39 (d) On or before January 1, 2006, and annually thereafter, the  
40 council shall submit, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general  
41 statutes, a report on activities under this section to the joint standing  
42 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
43 relating to planning and development.

44 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 12-62a of the general statutes is  
45 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
46 *October 1, 2005, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after*  
47 *October 1, 2005*):

48 (b) Each such municipality shall assess all property for purposes of  
49 the local property tax at a uniform rate of seventy per cent of present  
50 true and actual value, as determined under section 12-63. For  
51 assessment years commencing on and after October 1, 2006, any  
52 municipality with a population of more than one hundred thousand,

53 by ordinance adopted by its legislative body, may (1) designate real  
54 estate as (A) land or land exclusive of buildings, or (B) buildings on  
55 land, and (2) establish a separate rate of property tax for each  
56 designation, provided the higher rate shall apply to land or land  
57 exclusive of buildings. As used in this subsection, the term "real estate"  
58 does not include farm land, forest land and open space land as such  
59 terms are defined in section 12-107b.

60       Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Secretary of the Office of  
61 Policy and Management, within available appropriations, shall  
62 conduct a tax burden study. The study shall include an analysis of  
63 federal, state and local tax burdens of state taxpayers with different  
64 income levels in each municipality and evaluate how changes in local  
65 and state taxes would effect different income levels. The study shall be  
66 submitted to the General Assembly on or before July 1, 2006, and every  
67 two years thereafter.

68       Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) On or before January 15, 2006, the  
69 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in consultation with  
70 the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, the Council on Soil  
71 and Water Conservation District, regional planning agencies organized  
72 under the provisions of chapter 127 of the general statutes, regional  
73 councils of governments and regional councils of elected officials  
74 organized under the provisions of chapter 50 of the general statutes,  
75 the Agricultural Extension Services of The University of Connecticut,  
76 the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association, the  
77 Center of Land Use Education and Research at The University of  
78 Connecticut and the Rural Development Council, shall prepare a  
79 report on land use training and education available to members of  
80 local land uses agencies. Such report shall include a survey of existing  
81 programs and their utilization and recommendations, if any, for  
82 enhancements and additions to such programs including changes in  
83 state law.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2005, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2005</i>	12-62a(b)
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**PD**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*